



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,032	04/08/2004	Henry L. Griesbach III	18,970	9235
23556	7590	12/19/2005	EXAMINER	
KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC. 401 NORTH LAKE STREET NEENAH, WI 54956			HOEY, ALISSA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

80

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/821,032	GRIESBACH ET AL.
	Examiner Alissa L. Hoey	Art Unit 3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to amendment received 10/13/05. Claims 1, 9 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are rejected below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis Jr. et al. (US 5,073,988) in view of Gershman (Velcro Digest).

In regard to claim 1, Lewis Jr. et al. teaches a protective garment (10) comprising a garment body (12) having at least one sleeve (26) and a glove (24). A hook and loop fastener (58, 60) disposed between a first interior surface of the glove (24) and a first exterior surface of the sleeve (26). The hook and loop fastener (58, 60) forming an interface between the glove and the garment body such that the first interior surface of the glove overlaps a portion of the first exterior surface of the sleeve (figures 2-4). The glove (24) is removable from the garment body without damaging the glove or the garment body (figure 2-4).

In regard to claim 2, Lewis Jr. teaches the interface comprises at least continuous ring of the hook and loop fastener (figure 4, identifiers (58, 60).

In regard to claim 3, Lewis Jr. teaches interface comprises a barrier to the flow of liquids into the interior portion of the protective garment due to it's continuous ring (58, 60) creating a barrier.

In regard to claim 5, Lewis Jr. teaches the hook and loop fastener (58, 60) disposed on one of the first surfaces where it remains without migrating to the other first surface (figures 2-4).

In regard to claim 7, Lewis Jr. teaches the garment body capable of being worn as clean room apparel.

In regard to claim 8, Lewis Jr. teaches the garment body capable of being worn as a surgical gown.

In regard to claim 9, Lewis Jr. teaches a protective garment (10) comprising a garment body (12) having at least one sleeve (26) and a glove (24). A hook and loop fastener (58, 60) disposed upon a surface selected from the group consisting of an interior surface of the glove (24) and an exterior surface of the sleeve (26). The hook and loop fastener (58, 60) forming an interface between the two surfaces such that a portion of the interior surface of the glove overlaps a portion of the exterior surface of the sleeve, the hook and loop fastener having sufficient adhesion to remain affixed substantially to the surface to which it is applied while having sufficient strength to enable donning of the garment without damaging the interface (figures 2-4). The glove is removable from the garment body by breaking the interface, without causing damage to the surface of the glove or the garment body and without migration of the hook and loop fastener from the surface to which it is applied (figures 2-4, identifiers 58, 60).

In regard to claims 10 and 11, Lewis Jr. teaches the garment body capable of being worn as clean room apparel or a surgical gown.

In regard to claim 12, Lewis Jr. teaches the hook and loop fastener applied to the sleeve.

In regard to claim 13, Lewis Jr. teaches the hook and loop fastener applied to the glove (58).

In regard to claim 14, Lewis Jr. teaches the interface comprises a barrier to the flow of liquids into an interior portion of the protective garment based upon it's continuous ring shape forming a barrier (figure 4, identifiers 58, 60).

In regard to claim 16, Lewis Jr. teaches the interface comprises at least one band of the hook and loop fastener (58, 60).

In regard to claim 19, Lewis Jr. teaches a cuff configured at the distal end of the sleeve and the hook and loop fastener disposed proximal to the cuffs (Figures 4, identifiers 36 and 60).

In regard to claim 20, Lewis Jr. teaches a garment (10) that is capable of being worn as a surgical gown. The garment comprising a gown body (12) having two sleeves (26) and a detachable glove (24) associated with each sleeve (26). A hook and loop fastener (58, 60) disposed upon an inner surface of each glove (58) for attaching the glove to the gown sleeve such that a portion of the inner surface of the gloves overlap a portion of the exterior surfaces of the sleeves. The hook and loop fastener (58, 60) is sufficiently strong to enable donning of the surgical gown without separating the glove from the sleeve and wherein the glove is removable from the sleeve by peeling the

glove from the sleeve without damaging the glove, the sleeve or the garment body (figures 2-4, identifiers 58, 60).

With regard to claims 1-3, 5-14, 16 and 18-20 Lewis Jr. fails to teach the interface being an adhesive of a pressure sensitive type.

Gershman teaches the interchangeability and equivalence of hook and loop fasteners and adhesives (see article).

In regard to claim 6 and 18, Gershman teaches the adhesive being an adhesive tape which is inherently a pressure sensitive adhesive (see article).

It would have been obvious to have provided the garment of Lewis Jr. with the adhesive of Gershman, since the garment of Lewis Jr. having an adhesive interface would provide a garment connection between a glove and sleeve that has a secure one time connection that is cheaper in material costs than having a hook and loop fastening means.

4. Claims 4, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis Jr. and Gershman as applied to claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Faass (US 5,503,908).

However, Faass fails to teach applying the peel strength force to the interface being from about 40 grams force per inch to about 290 grams force per inch nondestructively separates the glove from the garment while the adhesive remains substantially on one of the first surfaces.

In regard to claims 4 and 15, Faass teaches applying the peel strength force to the interface being from about 40 grams force per inch to about 290 grams force per

inch nondestructively separates the glove from the garment while the adhesive remains substantially on one of the first surfaces.

In regard to claim 17, Lewis Jr. teaches the band being continuous around the sleeve (figures 4, identifiers 58, 60).

It would have been obvious to have provided the garment of Lewis Jr. and Gershman with the adhesive of Faass, since the garment of Lewis Jr. and Gershman provided with an adhesive having a peel strength force between 40-290 grams force per inch provides a garment separation point that is secure but does not destroy the garment components when separated.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 10/13/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

I) Applicant argues that Lewis, Jr. (US 5,073,988) fails to teach the glove overlapping the sleeve exterior.

Examiner disagrees since Lewis Jr. teaches the glove having an attachment portion located on the inner side of the glove portion and a corresponding attachment portion located on the external side of an inner sleeve portion. The first exterior portion of the sleeve is the inner sleeve portion, being the first portion located directly next to the user's skin. As long as Lewis, Jr. teaches an attachment on an exterior surface of a sleeve portion, it reads on the limitations as claimed.

Conclusion

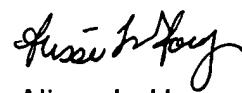
6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alissa L. Hoey whose telephone number is (571) 272-4985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30)Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alissa L. Hoey
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3700